

Bike Transit Center Site

The west "carriage court" is the location of the new bike building, enclosed on the east by the 30 foot arched portico and on the west by the stone retaining wall with stone balustrade and bronze lamp posts running along 1st Street. The portico serves as a major entrance to the train station, to retail and to Metro. Pedestrians wonder freely in this area, which connects to the arcade along the front of Union Station. A pedestrian connection also crosses the south edge of the court to an entrance of the Post Office building across 1st Street. The Post Office building's design with similar massing and arched windows compliments Union Station and serves as part of the overall composition of the site.

On the north edge of the site the 1970's train room addition of glass and black steel extends beyond the building with a shed roof. Next to this addition a two-way ramp leads up to the parking garage in the rear. A large sign is located in front of the glass shed, which lists the movies being shown in the theaters.

A new bike path, the Metropolitan Branch Trail, will pass along 1st Street on the east side and continue across Massachusetts Avenue toward the Capitol and the National Mall. This will be a major bicycle connection for tourists coming from Union Station.

This space is currently an asphalt plaza facing southwest with painted pedestrian crosswalks. Most of the day there is good sunlight except early morning and late evening due shadows cast by Union Station and the Post Office.

Bus traffic will continue to pass through the site although the buses will not stop. They will only go up to the garage for layover and return when their route time begins. No other traffic is anticipated at this time except an occasional maintenance vehicle.

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Proposed Bicycle Transit Center Union Station, Washington DC